

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 10 through 19 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5 through 9, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 10, 11, and 16 through 19 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 10 and 16 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowed Claims

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 10 through 15 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended *inter alia* to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not affect the allowability of these claims and Claims 10 through 15 remain allowable over the art of record.

Allowable Claims

It is also acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 7 and 20 would be allowable “if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.” (Emphasis added.) Since no Section 112 rejection is set forth in the Official Action, it is believed that Section 102 of the statute was intended. In any event, Claims 7 and 20 have been canceled making this rejection moot.

Section 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 16 through 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Isobe, et al. The rationale underlying the rejection is set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejection

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 have been canceled and Claim 16 has been amended to include allowable subject matter. The cancellation of these claims make their rejection moot. Accordingly, further comment on the rejection of these claims is not necessary.

Amended independent Claim 16 is directed to a process cartridge detachably attachable to a main body of an image forming apparatus. The process cartridge includes a photosensitive drum and a developing device for developing a latent image formed on the photosensitive drum. The developing device includes a developer bearing member and a developer container for containing a developer. The developer container includes a developer containing portion, a partition member dividing an interior of the developer containing portion into a plurality of rooms, and a cover for covering the developer containing portion. The partition member is molded integrally with the cover. The containing portion also includes a rib disposed in a direction intersecting the partition member and a groove disposed in a direction so as to avoid intersecting the rib.

Amended Claim 16 calls for a process cartridge claim, which includes the developing device recited in amended Claim 10. As above-noted, it is believed that amended Claim 10 is allowable over the art of record. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 16 also is now allowable.

Dependent Claims

Claims 11 through 15 (identified as being allowable as above-noted) and 17 through 19 depend either directly or indirectly from one of independent Claims 10 and 16 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

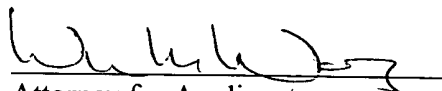
Closing Comments

This Amendment could not have been presented earlier in the prosecution, inasmuch as it was earnestly believed that the claims heretofore on file were in condition for allowance. It is believed that the Examiner's familiarity with the present application will allow full consideration hereof without the expenditure of undue time and effort.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Wannisky', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

William M. Wannisky

Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
WMW:tas

DC_MAIN 151486v1